

2 Pst 11/17/69

Weisberg Convicted Of Larceny

Author Harold Weisberg of RFD 8, Frederick, widely known for his writings after the assassination of President Kennedy, was found guilty in Trial Magistrate's Court Tuesday morning of "not the usual kind of larceny."

Weisberg faced a charge that he did "steal, take and carry away" one leather brief case on Dec. 2 from Crider Leather Goods in the Frederick County Shopping Center.

Weisberg, however, at the hearing before Magistrate Stanley Y. Bennett testified that he had taken the piece of luggage "for security" on merchandise and money owed him by an agent of the store, whom he identified as Thomas S. Young, and that he did in front of a witness offer the store manager, Miss Elizabeth Markward, a receipt for the piece of merchandise.

Weisberg said Young owed him merchandise and cash through

oral agreements for books, show-cases he had promised to trade but didn't, repair work on luggage, imported moccasins and a woman's pocketbook, and that he took the piece of luggage in question as security for this debt.

Young denied he had ever made any agreements with Weisberg, that Weisberg had left the books at the store, and that he never recalled any agreements that he would trade merchandise and services for the showcases in question.

Miss Markward testified as to the events of Dec. 2 when Weisberg came to the store, asked if Young had left him a check, and said he was taking the luggage and would give her a receipt for the same. She said she said she could not take his receipt.

Young testified that he talked with Weisberg on the phone that day in a "unilateral conversation which was productive of nothing."

Weisberg said he took the luggage, but with no intent to steal, only to recover what was owed him.

Magistrate Bennett asked in whose possession the luggage was, and was told it was carried into the trial room by Weis-

berg. He found the defendant guilty of larceny, but emphasized that "this is not the usual kind of larceny," that there were mitigating factors.

He said this case involves civil matters.

Weisberg said he would return the piece of luggage.

Bennett fined Weisberg \$50 and costs, and suspended both.

Attorney Glenn C. Michel, representing Weisberg, in summing up the defense emphasized there was no intent on his client's part to steal any property . . . that it was taken for security and for no other purpose. He called the case a civil matter and realizes "there are remedies available to both sides."

He said "perhaps Mr. Weisberg acted impetuously, but there was no attempt to steal . . . there was an arrangement, an agreement about a sum of money owed to him . . . he was entitled to certain goods."